

Open Access contribution to inclusive and participatory global knowledge societies

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2013 World Summit on the Information Society
multistakeholder review event (WSIS+10)
UNESCO, Paris, 25-27 February 2013
ISSC Session: Critical Social Sciences in the Digital Age

Open-access (OA) literature is
digital, online, free of charge,
and free of most copyright and
licensing restrictions

Peter Suber

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from where do we speak
Latin America and the Caribbean

- largest gap between rich and poor
- pressing social issues require research
- research: 2/3 government-funded + int.coop.
- knowledge in local language, in local publications → lack visibility
- absence of commercial academic publishers
- impressive growth of OA, ex.: 70% soc.sc.
- OA regional initiatives

from where do we speak

CLACSO – Latin America Social Science Council

- 313 social science institutions in 21 countries
- 15 years of open access advocacy
- OA digital repository since 1998: 30.000 texts, average 850.000 monthly downloads
- Reporting LAC OA progress in UNESCO-GOAP Global Open Access Portal, and international social science OA progress in ISSC OA web resources

Voices from developing regions

“identifying the types of knowledge they possess, boosting their value”

1st pillar “Towards knowledge societies” UNESCO, 2005

Local and regional knowledge in **gold open access**:

- ✓ OA peer-review journals (Brazil 2° after USA in DOAJ)
- ✓ Regional multidisciplinary OA peer-review journal portals, ex. AJOL (450), SciELO (1.014), Redalyc (808)
- ✓ Country JOL's (INASP), SEER (Brazil)
- ✓ OJS-PKP journal collections (nearly 50 % in developing countries)

Voices from developing regions (cont.)

Local and regional knowledge in **green open access**:

- ✓ Digital + institutional repositories
 - contents*: thesis, journal articles, books, multimedia, research reports, conference papers.
 - more recently*: learning objects, datasets
 - OpenDOAR: 2.263 (23% from developing regions)
- ✓ UN subject digital repositories, ex.: AGRIS, LABORDOC, WHO

Voices from developing regions (cont.)

Knowledge sharing + conversations
in social networks



barriers for OA adoption

- access (technology, language, preparation)
- Research evaluation based on impact factor IF
- Need of OA regional indicators
- Proposals of “author pays” open access business models
- Need local contents in OA digital repositories / OA mandates / OA legislation
- value other voices outside academia

“Clearly, the structure of scientific power is affected by Open Access, and, as result, that structure should be kept in mind while framing strategies aimed at fostering Open Access. It is difficult to imagine, except rhetorically, how advocating for Open Access can be divorced from working for a different structuring of power in science”

Guédon, Jean-Claude . *Open Access and the divide between “mainstream” and “peripheral” science.*, 2008.
<http://eprints.rclis.org/10778/>

Recommendations: Knowledge as a shared resource, as a commons

Charlotte Hess and Elinor Ostrom.

Understanding knowledge as a commons, MIT, 2006

- discuss how to define, protect, and build the knowledge commons in the digital age, sharing responsibilities and costs.
- Avoid new enclosures
- Participatory approach (ex. La Referencia, Scielo, JOL, UN inf. systems)

Raising awareness of the wealth of available knowledge requires a mobilization of all players in society.

UNESCO World Report "Towards knowledge societies" (2005)

Recommendations: dissemination of results is part of the research cost

“better integration of knowledge policies..... need for open access policies.... “

UNESCO's first World Report 2005 "Towards knowledge societies"

- Prevent new enclosure to government funded research results: OA free for authors-free for users
- Institutional repositories+harvesters: no charge for authors
- Commercial editors and open access entrepreneurs can contribute with value-added services and charge for those additional services, ex. mega journals, epi journals....

Recommendations: review research evaluation procedures

"Until the emphasis on publication in established high impact subscription journals and on metrics as a measure of quality is altered, open access will face ongoing challenges"

Tim Berners-Lee, WWW creator

- **Support for OA advocacy and debates at high level**
- **Altmetrics and indicators from OA portals in developing regions**
- **Alternative peer-review processes**
- **Institutional repositories: metadata describing evaluation procedures of digital objects**

Recommendations: support South-South OA cooperation

- Research on OA needs and priorities (ex. WSIS, EIFL, INASP, IDRC...)
- Development of OA indicators + analysis (ex.Redalyc)
- OA policies, mandates: sponsor debate at ministerial regional meetings
- Translate UNESCO OA Guidelines and GOAP
- Interoperability of OA repositories (ex.Scielo)
- OA linked to e-learning, OER, e-science